



Court Interpreter Update

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Spanish Practice Oral Exam Kits Now Available to Prepare for Certification!

Requests for kits should be directed to Adrienne Meiring at the Division of State Court Administration.

Locate certified interpreters in your area through the registry.

Learn more about becoming a certified court interpreter.

Results of September Oral Examinations

This testing cycle proved to be an extremely successful one as 9 candidates passed the oral certification exam for Spanish and one candidate (see below) passed for French!

Candidates who passed the Spanish oral exam are: [David Araujo](#), Gary; Olivia Bernal, Indianapolis; [Susannah Bueno](#), South Bend; [Eileen Ervesun](#), Carmel; [Catherine Kruck](#), Fort Wayne; [Samuel Melo](#), Fort Wayne; Tatiana Mitchell, Indianapolis; Kimberly Perez, Logansport; [Carolina Salter](#), Crawfordsville (click name for link to extended bios).

In all, 34 candidates took the oral exam, 32 for Spanish and 2 for French. Besides the 10 candidates who passed, 6 individuals passed portions of the exam, and 11 of the remaining were identified as having good potential and were urged to re-test in the future.

Featured Bio: Molly K. Smith, Indiana's First Certified French Court Interpreter



Molly K. Smith

Certified court interpreter in Spanish & French

In this September's testing cycle, [Molly K. Smith](#) became Indiana's first certified court interpreter in French. Only 2 other court interpreters have achieved this designation nationwide! Moreover, she is certified in two languages.

A native English speaker, Molly has studied Spanish for over 10 years, achieving certification in November 2005, and has studied French for over 8 years. From 2001-2004, Molly worked in France as a legal translator intern at Coudert Frères and Ashurst Morris Crisp in Paris. She also worked for two translation agencies in Rennes.

Currently, Molly Smith is the Language Services Department Manager at Clarian Health Partners, supervising a staff of 17 interpreters. She oversees document translation and interprets Spanish and French for patients and hospital staff.

To learn more, including contact information, about Molly and Indiana's other certified court interpreters, visit the registry at <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/interpreter/registry.html>.

Did You Know . . .

"Every 14 days a language dies. By 2100, more than half of the more than 7,000 languages spoken on Earth . . . will likely disappear, taking with them a wealth of knowledge about history, culture, the natural environment, and how the brain works."

--Enduring Voices Project

Contact Us

Adrienne Meiring

Staff Attorney

Indiana Supreme Court

Div. of State Court Admin.

(317) 232-2542

ameiring@courts.state.in.us

Language Line Demo at Judicial Conference



At the 37th Annual Judicial Conference, Judge Robert Altice, Marion Superior Court, and Lilia Judson, Executive Director of STAD, demonstrated that the Supreme Court's Language Line Program is as easy to use as taking porridge from a bear's vacant cottage. All a judicial officer needs is a speakerphone, the Supreme Court's approved account number, and a dialing finger.

Donning a blonde wig for this simulated hearing, Lilia "Goldilocks" Judson, appeared before Judge Altice and, speaking only in Bulgarian, requested that her bond on charges of residential entry and criminal mischief be reduced. Using the Language Line Program, Judge Altice connected by phone to a language line representative who was available within seconds to deliver quality interpretation. Not only did the interpreter appropriately interpret legal terminology and common English idioms, but she also effectively conveyed several subtly humorous lines, e.g. Goldilocks was attending beauty school at "The House of Hair" and needed to return home to help her friend, Little Red Riding Hood, who had problems with a hairy guy named "Wolf."

For more information about the program or to obtain a card with the Supreme Court's account number, judicial officers should contact Adrienne Meiring at (317) 232-2542.

Legal & Legislative Updates

S702 (State Court Interpreter Grant Program Act) - (NCSC, Gov't Relations Office, *Washington Update*) - In coordination with Sen. Herb Kohl (D-WI), NCSC staff hosted a congressional staff briefing on Sept. 17, 2007 to discuss issues courts face in providing court interpreter services. Follow up efforts are being made to obtain additional co-sponsors for Sen. Kohl's bill for federal funds to support state court interpreter programs.



Lopez v. Gonzales, 127 S. Ct. 625 (2006) - The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) lists "illicit trafficking in a controlled substance . . . including a drug trafficking crime (as defined in 924(c) of title 18)" as an aggravated felony. While the INA doesn't define "illicit trafficking," section 924(c)(2) of title 18 specifies that "drug trafficking crime" includes "any felony punishable under the Controlled Substances Act" (CSA). Lopez, a legal permanent resident alien, pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting another person's possession of cocaine, a felony in South Dakota. INS began removal proceedings on the ground that Lopez's state conviction was an "aggravated felony" even though Lopez's crime would have been a misdemeanor under the CSA. The Government argued that the crime's status under state law makes it an aggravated felony under the INA, asserting that 924(c) only requires that an offense be punishable under the CSA, not that it be a punishable federal felony. The U.S. Supreme Court disagreed, holding that conduct made a felony under state law but a misdemeanor under the CSA is not a "felony punishable under the Controlled Substances Act" for INA purposes.

Saravia v. State (NFP)(Ind. Ct. App. June 7, 2007)(Barnes, J.) - Saravia, a native Spanish speaker, appealed the denial of a motion to suppress his confession, alleging that he did not knowingly waive his *Miranda* rights as he was not advised of the rights in Spanish nor offered an interpreter. The Court of Appeals affirmed, reasoning that the State proved the warnings were given with sufficient clarity. Although the detective read the warnings to Saravia in English, Saravia testified at the suppression hearing that he had lived in the U.S. for 12 years and had learned English. Further, officers testified that Saravia did not request an interpreter or otherwise indicate problems with English, did not appear confused, and showed no problems understanding or communicating with the detective during the interview.